

AMENDED IN SENATE APRIL 21, 2010

SENATE BILL

No. 1354

Introduced by Senator Hancock
(Coauthor: Senator Romero)

February 19, 2010

An act to amend Sections 54690, 54691, and 54692 of the Education Code, relating to instructional programs.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 1354, as amended, Hancock. Partnership academies.

Existing law provides for the establishment of partnership academies for pupils at risk of dropping out of school by participating school districts that meet specified eligibility requirements, and requires the Superintendent of Public Instruction to issue grants to school districts for planning, establishing, and maintaining the partnership academies. Existing law sets forth criteria for a pupil to be considered ~~at-risk~~ *at risk* of dropping out of school.

This bill would expand the criteria for determining whether a pupil is ~~at-risk~~ *at risk* of dropping out of school, and would revise the requirements for the enrollment of pupils who are not ~~at-risk~~ *at risk*. The bill, commencing with the 2011–12 fiscal year, would provide an annual percentage cost-of-living increase to each partnership academy in operation for 3 or more years. The bill would require a school district to provide an assurance that each academy pupil will be provided with career technical courses in each grade level that are part of an occupational course sequence that targets comprehensive skills, and meets certain other requirements. The bill would make other conforming changes.

This bill would also make technical, nonsubstantive changes.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.
State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 54690 of the Education Code is amended
2 to read:
3 54690. (a) The Legislature hereby finds and declares that the
4 partnership academies program has proven to be a highly effective
5 state-school-private sector partnership, providing combined
6 academic and occupational training to high school pupils who
7 present a high risk of dropping out of school, and motivating those
8 pupils to stay in school and graduate. Partnership academies are
9 functioning in 45 high schools spread throughout the state, with
10 occupational training successfully offered in over 15 different skill
11 fields, including such diverse skills as electronics, computer
12 technology, finance, agribusiness, graphic arts and printing,
13 international business, and space. Partnership academies have been
14 honored with national awards for excellence, and the California
15 partnership academies have been given high accolades in various
16 textbooks and studies addressing career technical education
17 programs.
18 (b) The Legislature finds the partnership academies are in the
19 forefront of school efforts to integrate academic and career
20 technical education and that they can be effective in providing an
21 integrated learning program and high motivation toward pursuing
22 skilled occupational fields to pupils at risk of dropping out of
23 school and to pupils not motivated by the regular educational
24 curriculum. Further, the Legislature finds the partnership academies
25 can make a very positive contribution towards meeting the needs
26 of the state for a highly skilled and educated workforce in the 21st
27 century.
28 (c) Therefore, the Legislature hereby states its intent to expand
29 the number of partnership academies in this state's high schools,
30 hereafter to be known as California Partnership Academies; to
31 broaden the availability of these learning experiences to interested
32 pupils who do not meet the criteria of "at-risk" pupils; and to
33 encourage the establishment of academies whose occupational
34 fields address the needs of developing technologies.

(d) For purposes of this article, an “at-risk” pupil means a pupil enrolled in high school who is at risk of dropping out of school, as indicated by at least three of the following criteria:

(1) Past record of irregular attendance. For purposes of this section, “irregular attendance” means absence from school 80 20 percent or more of the school year.

(2) Past record of underachievement in which the pupil is at least one year behind the coursework for the respective grade level.

(3) Past record of low motivation or a disinterest in the regular school program.

(4) Disadvantaged economically.

(5) Scoring below basic in ~~Algebra I~~ *mathematics* or English language arts on the standardized test administered pursuant to Article 4 (commencing with Section 60640) of Chapter 5 of Part 33.

(6) Maintaining a grade point average of 2.2 or below, or the equivalent of a ~~C-~~ *C minus*.

(e) Up to one-half of the pupils enrolled at a partnership academy may be pupils who do not meet the criteria of “~~at-risk~~” “*at-risk*” pupils.

(f) The department may expend no more than 5 percent of the funds received to carry out this article on administrative expenses.

SEC. 2. Section 54691 of the Education Code is amended to read:

54691. Commencing with the 1993–94 fiscal year, from the funds appropriated for that purpose, the Superintendent shall issue grants to school districts maintaining high schools that meet the specifications of Section 54692, for purposes of planning, establishing, and maintaining academies, as follows:

(a) The Superintendent may issue a maximum of 155 grants per year for purposes of planning partnership academies. The Superintendent, when issuing the grants to school districts, shall ensure that the grants are equitably distributed among high-wealth and low-wealth school districts in urban, rural, and suburban areas. Each planning grant shall be in the amount of fifteen thousand dollars (\$15,000).

(b) For the 1993–94 fiscal year, and each fiscal year thereafter, the Superintendent may issue grants for the implementation and maintenance of existing academies or academies planned pursuant

1 to subdivision (a). Implementation and maintenance grants shall
2 be calculated in accordance with the following schedule:

3 (1) Districts operating academies may receive one thousand
4 four hundred dollars (\$1,400) per year for each qualified pupil
5 enrolled in an academy during the first year of that academy's
6 operation, provided that no more than forty-two thousand dollars
7 (\$42,000) may be granted to any one academy for the initial year.

8 (2) Districts operating academies may receive one thousand two
9 hundred dollars (\$1,200) for each qualified pupil enrolled in an
10 academy during the second year of that academy's operation,
11 provided that no more than seventy-two thousand dollars (\$72,000)
12 may be granted to any one academy for the second year.

13 (3) Districts operating academies may receive nine hundred
14 dollars (\$900) for each qualified pupil enrolled in an academy
15 during the third and following years of that academy's operation,
16 provided that no more than eighty-one thousand dollars (\$81,000)
17 may be granted to any one academy for each fiscal year.

18 (4) Commencing with the 2011–12 fiscal year, each California
19 Partnership Academy in operation for three or more years shall
20 receive an annual percentage cost-of-living adjustment.

21 (c) For purposes of this section, a qualified pupil is a pupil
22 enrolled in a partnership academy pursuant to subdivision (d) or
23 (e) of Section 54690 and who is enrolled in an academy for the
24 10th, 11th, or 12th grade, obtains 90 percent of the credits each
25 academic year in courses that are required for graduation, and does
26 any of the following:

27 (1) Successfully completes a school year during the 10th grade
28 with an attendance record of no less than 80 percent.

29 (2) Successfully completes a school year during the 11th grade
30 with an attendance record of no less than 80 percent.

31 (3) Successfully graduates after the 12th grade.

32 A pupil enrolled in an academy who successfully completes only
33 one semester with regard to enrollment, attendance, and credits
34 within the school year is considered qualified for that semester
35 and the district may receive one-half of the funds specified under
36 subdivision (b) for that pupil.

37 (d) At the end of each school year, school districts that have
38 been approved to operate academies pursuant to this article shall
39 certify the following information to the Superintendent:

1 (1) The operation of each academy in accordance with this
2 article, including Sections 54692 and 54694.

3 (2) The number of qualified pupils enrolled during the just
4 completed school year, by grade level, for each academy operated
5 by the district.

6 (3) The amount of matching funds and the dollar value of in-kind
7 support made available to each academy in accordance with
8 subdivisions (a) and (b) of Section 54692.

9 (e) The Superintendent shall adjust each school district's grant
10 in accordance with the certification made to him or her pursuant
11 to subdivision (d) or in accordance with any discrepancies to the
12 certification that may be revealed by audit. Notwithstanding the
13 provisions of this section, the Superintendent may advance up to
14 50 percent of the funds as he or she deems appropriate to districts
15 that are approved to operate, or plan to operate partnership
16 academies.

17 (f) Funds granted to school districts pursuant to this article may
18 be expended without regard to fiscal year. However, the funds
19 must be expended for the maintenance and operation of academies.

20 SEC. 3. Section 54692 of the Education Code is amended to
21 read:

22 54692. In order to be eligible to receive funding pursuant to
23 this article, ~~a school~~ *a school* district shall provide all of the
24 following:

25 (a) An amount equal to a 100 percent match of all funds received
26 pursuant to this article in the form of direct and in-kind support
27 provided by the district.

28 (b) An amount equal to a 100 percent match of all funds received
29 pursuant to this article in the form of direct and in-kind support
30 provided by participating companies or other private sector
31 organizations.

32 (c) An assurance that state funds provided by the partnership
33 academies program shall be used only for the development,
34 operation, and support of partnership academies.

35 (d) An assurance that each academy will be established as a
36 "school within a school." Academy teachers shall work as a team
37 in planning, teaching, and troubleshooting program activities.
38 Classes in the academy program shall be limited to academy pupils
39 as specified in subdivision (d). Each participating school district
40 shall establish an advisory committee consisting of individuals

1 involved in academy operations, including school district and
2 school administrators, lead teachers, and representatives of the
3 private sector.

4 (e) Assurance that each academy pupil will be provided with
5 the following:

6 (1) Instruction in at least three academic subjects each regular
7 school term that prepares the pupil for a regular high school
8 diploma. These subjects should contribute to an understanding of
9 the occupational field of the academy.

10 (2) Career technical education courses offered at each grade
11 level at the academy that are part of an occupational course
12 sequence that targets comprehensive skills that does the following:

13 (A) Provides career technical education in occupations of
14 regional and local economic need.

15 (B) Focuses on occupations requiring comprehensive skills
16 leading to higher than entry-level wages, or the possibility of
17 significant wage increases after a few years on the job, or both.

18 (C) Provides a sequence of courses that build upon each other
19 in knowledge, skill development, and experience, and ends in a
20 capstone course that includes an internship component.

21 (D) Prepares pupils for employment and postsecondary
22 education. Sequenced courses shall be linked to certificate and
23 degree programs in the region, where possible.

24 (E) Whenever possible, prepares pupils for industry-recognized
25 certifications.

26 (F) Where appropriate, offers career technical education courses
27 that also meet A-G University of California requirements, or seeks
28 A-G status for appropriate existing courses.

29 (3) A class schedule that limits the attendance to the classes
30 required in paragraphs (1) and (2) to pupils of the academy.
31 Whenever possible, these classes should be block scheduled in a
32 cluster to provide flexibility to academy teachers. During the 12th
33 grade the number of academic classes may vary.

34 (4) A mentor from the business community during the pupil's
35 11th grade year.

36 (5) An internship or paid job related to the academy's
37 occupational field or work experience to improve employment
38 skills, during the summer following the 11th grade. A pupil who
39 must attend summer school for purposes of completing graduation
40 requirements is exempt from this paragraph.

1 (6) Additional motivational activities with private sector
2 involvement to encourage academic and occupational preparation.
3 (f) Assurance that academy teachers have a common planning
4 period to interchange pupil and educational information. A second
5 planning period should ~~be provided~~ *be provided* for the lead teacher
6 in addition to the normal planning period for full-time teachers
7 and be supported as a part of the school district's matching funds,
8 whenever practical.

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